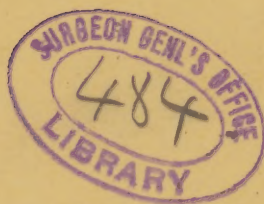


HORWITZ (O.)

Reunion of a portion  
of an amputated finger.

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## **REUNION OF A PORTION OF AN AMPUTATED FINGER.**

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A CASE resulting in a gratifying and complete reunion of severed parts presented itself at the Jefferson College Hospital, which I am tempted to report, though I am aware that it but accords with the experience of the profession.

On the 20th of October last, a young man, twenty years of age, was brought to the hospital, who stated that whilst cutting a piece of sheet tin his forefinger accidentally became entangled, and before it could be disengaged the upper portion was amputated. He brought with him the severed portion wrapped in a dirty rag, as was likewise the stump.

On examination it was found that the knife had entered at the junction of the skin and nail, had passed obliquely downward, emerging just above the first joint, making a clean cut and completely severing the upper portion of the finger. The accident had occurred some twenty minutes before I saw the patient.

With the hope of having the stump reunite to the finger, I placed the amputated portion in a solution of 1:1000 mercuric chloride, whilst making the necessary preparations. The hand, being very dirty, was first scrubbed with bichloride soap, washed with turpentine, and once more scrubbed with soap, and then placed in



a basin of warm bichloride solution and allowed to soak for fifteen minutes.

The amputated portion having been scrubbed and cleaned, was nicely adjusted; accurate apposition having been obtained, it was secured to the stump by delicate sutures. Care was taken to pass a suture through the divided portions of the nail, so as to give the parts firmness and stability. The wound was then dusted with iodoform and dressed with bichloride gauze. The hand was placed in a splint, and the patient was directed to return at the end of two days.

At the expiration of the prescribed time the patient again presented himself, when, on examination, it was found that the parts had regained their natural appearance; warmth had returned to the severed parts; the color under the nail had become as natural and as fresh-looking as though no wound had ever existed; and what was most gratifying, there was perfect sensation at the end of the finger, showing that the extremities of the nerves were in complete apposition, and that they had already become reunited. Sixteen days after the date of injury the individual returned to work, having perfect use of his hand and finger.

